

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180726

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 180726 ACTION MANILA 16 AUG

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180726

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP, EAID

SUBJECT:GAO QUESTION ON PHILIPPINE PRISONERS

REFS: A. MANILA 9827

B. MANILA 4675

C. STATE 179258

1. DEPARTMENT POLICY WITH RESPECT TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA IS TO STATE FACTS AS BEST WE KNOW THEM. OUR INTENTION IN SECOND SENTENCE OF ANSWER THREE REF C WAS TO STATE OUR BEST UNDERSTANDING OF WHETHER POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE CHARGED AND TRIED. EMBASSY INDICATED PARA 6 REF B THAT QUOTE THERE HAVE BEEN ALMOST NO EFFORTS TO PREPARE CHARGES AGAINST PRISONERS OR BRING THEM TO TRIAL UNQUOTE, AND THAT AQUINO ONLY POLITICAL PRISONER CHARGED AND BROUGHT TO TRIAL.

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2. IF REFERENCE TO AQUINO AS SOLE PRISONER CHARGED MAKES

STATEMENT MISLEADING THEN SUGGEST FOLLOWING AS SUBSTITUTE
SECOND SENTENCE FOR ANSWER 3: QUOTE FROM THE INFORMATION
AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY, IT APPEARS THAT MOST DETAINEES IN
THIS CATEGORY HAVE NEITHER BEEN CHARGED NOR TRIED. UNQUOTE.
IF EMBASSY HAS NO SUCH INFORMATION, THEN ALTERNATIVE SECOND
SENTENCE COULD BE: QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT GENERALLY
PUBLISH CHARGES MADE AGAINST ITS PRISONERS UNQUOTE.
EMBASSY OF COURSE MAY SUITABLY CORRECT SENTENCE IF
NECESSARY.

3. WHICHEVER FORMULA IS USED, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE
NOTIFICATION. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE FOR OUR OWN INFOR-
MATION AN EXPLANAION OF VARIOUS WAYS A PRISONER CAN BE
CHARGED OR TRIED.

4. DEPARTMENT AGREES TO CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION FOR
ANSWERS. GAO TEAM SHOULD BE INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT WE
WILL BE WILLING TO DISCUSS DECLASSIFICATION OF PARTS OF
THIS INFORMATION AFTER TEAM'S RETURN TO WASHINGTON IF
THEY WISH TO USE IT IN THEIR REPORTS.

KISSINGER UNQUOTE

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